

THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JULY 19TH, 1892.

NUMBER 29

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E. A. Tilly, Sec.

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

A. J. LAMOREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—
79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, JULY 19th, 1892.

THE present state of communication between this city and Niteroiy demands serious consideration. The loss of three ferry-boats last week, wholly through negligence, the wretched condition of the tramways in that city and its suburbs, are all creating serious embarrassments for those who are living on the other side of the bay. And still more important, these obstacles to communication are operating most prejudicially to Niteroiy and its suburbs. The recent acquisition of a good water supply has rendered Niteroiy a desirable place of residence, for there are innumerable places along or near the shore of the bay which are unsurpassed for healthfulness and picturesqueness. It is for the interests of the municipality and property-owners of that city to attract as many of the business people of Rio as possible. Instead of this they are permitting a badly managed, if not bankrupt company to ruin their tramways and the ferry service with Rio, and thus drive away a class of residents which alone can enrich and embellish their city. It is also for the interests of this capital to open up all the desirable places in its neighborhood for residences, in order to prevent crowding and unsanitary conditions. In view of these considerations something should be done at once, either to improve the present service, or to open new lines of communication.

It would appear, from what we are permitted to know of the situation, that the revolutions in Matto Grosso and Rio Grande are at an end. Of course the suspended mail service with Matto Grosso and the reticence of the national authorities who control the telegraph lines, leave us quite in the dark as to the situation in that state. The leader of the revolutionary movement, Col. Barbosa, has withdrawn from the state, and we also know that Corumbá is now in possession of the national authorities. It is presumable, therefore, that nothing now remains of the "República Transatlantica de Matto Grosso." As for Rio Grande, the situation is not yet quite clear. Notwithstanding the telegraph and steamship lines which connect us with that state, it has been quite impossible to form a clear idea of the course of events there. This has also been further complicated by the confusion of terms employed, both parties being indiscriminately called "rebels" and "legallistas." It is evident, however, that since the surrender of Tavares at Bagé, without the slightest show of resistance, there remains no considerable party of men in arms against the present government. How long this will last no one can foretell. Castilhos and Monteiro are evidently using their power with severity, and are pursuing their enemies with a rancor which can not fail to arouse an armed resistance whenever

that becomes possible. Large numbers of the defeated party have taken refuge in Uruguay, some of its leaders are here in Rio, some are under arrest, and many are in hiding. It may be safely predicted that not one of them will submit to the situation so harshly enforced by Castilhos, and therefore that we have not yet seen an end of the Rio Grande difficulties.

THE PORT OF SANTOS.

The erection of three storehouses on the new quays in Santos will of course add something to the facilities of that port, but without provisions for laying the ships alongside, or without piers for discharging purposes, they will prove to be of very little advantage beyond the shelter they may afford to merchandise. Santos requires and must have more piers for the discharge of vessels, so that they can get away from the place. It would be better, in our opinion, to provide a new port farther down the river, so that vessels may not be required to come near the city and its infectious water front. Surely there is engineering skill enough there to connect it with the city and railway!

However important it may be to facilitate the discharge of vessels, in order to prevent their accumulation in that plague-ridden port, and however desirable to provide shelter and protection for the merchandise landed, it is no less important and urgent to provide better facilities for sending merchandise up country. Santos is not well provided with carts, and its few available streets for the transportation of merchandise will not permit a very large traffic between the storehouses and the railway station. To build storehouses without providing tramway or railway facilities for carrying goods to the S. Paulo railway station, will not advance matters much.

And then comes the question of railway transportation, which is unquestionably the prime factor in the difficulties which have brought so much trouble upon Santos, and have caused so much prejudice to the interior districts of the state of São Paulo. We know that the government is seriously in the wrong for its reactionary policy toward that railway, for withholding permission for needed improvements in Santos, for delaying consideration of questions of vital importance to the administration of that important road, and for failing to cooperate at a time when every moment's delay cost a human life. At the same time, the company also has been in the wrong and must bear its share of responsibility for the situation in Santos. We called attention last year to the railway company's responsibility in this matter, but without avail. Both government and company have been contending for certain advantages, and between them the public has suffered most terribly. We know that there is no better managed road in Brazil, but at the same time the road has been most profitable. From the information which we have been able to procure, we are convinced that the S. Paulo railway might have carried away much more freight, and that it has not made full use of its pier for the discharge of vessels. It has also been slow in extending its facilities for the reception of merchandise.

In view of all this we must again call the attention of the government and railway officials to the necessity of at once providing against a repetition of last season's experiences. There should be better discharging facilities, better transportation facilities in Santos and increased facilities in the railway for the transportation of merchandise up country. We are now in July, and but little time remains before the hot season will again be upon us.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

- The state of siege in Buenos Aires was raised July 9th.
- The epidemic of influenza is still raging with unabated vigor in Argentina and Uruguay.
- During the six months ending June 30th, 36,274 persons arrived in Argentina and 33,29 left it.
- The Santa Fé provincial government has recently been paying its police force with stamped paper, instead of cash.
- Paraguay is becoming quite a fashionable winter resort for Argentines on account of its mild climate and beautiful scenery.
- The action of the officers of the Argentine torpedo cruiser *Roncales* in taking the boats for their own safety and abandoning their men to their fate, will not create a very favorable impression abroad. There is something very peculiar in this incident which the Argentine naval authorities will find very difficult to explain.

—The Montevideo customs receipts in June were \$559,712.70, of which \$328,536.13 were from imports and \$231,176.57 from exports.

—An monument is to be erected in the Buenos Aires cemetery in the memory of the victims of the revolution of July 1890. The cost is estimated at \$30,000.

—The military session of the Uruguayan Congress was closed on the 15th. The government has resolved to prorogue it, however, until pending financial questions are settled.

—There are to be 12 more generals, making 62 altogether, each commanding a splendid army of 161 men. The generals will cost \$500,000 a year. —*Buenos Aires Herald.*

—During the month of June the deaths in Buenos Aires from influenza were 664 and from other diseases 1192, being at the very high rate, taking the population at 525,000, at 41 per 1,000.

—The municipal foreign debt of Rosario, Argentina, amounts to \$7,840,206 gold. The municipal authorities, however, are spending money as freely as if they did not owe a cent.

—Telegrams from Rio Grande say that Tavares surrendered without fighting, as he did not wish to hurt his countrymen. The revolution is triumphant without bloodshed. —*Buenos Aires Southern Cross.*

—The Buenos Aires custom-house receipts during the last six months were \$1,134,451 gold and \$38,072,485.38 paper, against \$144,604.39 gold and \$22,151,377 paper during the same period of last year.

—The commander and officers of the wrecked cruiser *Roncales* arrived at Buenos Aires on the 15th, and were immediately ordered to report to a board of investigation. After all the evidence is in, the board will determine where the responsibility lies for the disaster.

—According to official figures received by the Argentine minister of the interior the Argentine territory of Tierra del Fuego has a population of 2000 souls and 5 kilometres of land under cultivation. There are three houses of business and four cattle and sheep farms, on which there are 50 head of cattle, 61 horses, 1,500 sheep, 25 mules, 200 goats, and 100 pigs. Ten leagues of forest are being burned to account. The capital of the territory has a population of 200 souls.

—A very painful case connected with the Hypothecary Bank of Buenos Aires came before the public last week. The *Gama* property, on which the bank had advanced 1,305,000 dollars, was sold by auction in 177 lots and realized only 140,000 dollars. The property covered 4 square leagues, and the loan when made represented \$134,000 sterling or 26 per acre, whereas the price now obtained is only £3,000 or 6 shillings per acre. The property in question was one of the famous "Centros Agrícolas." —*Southern Cross, July 8.*

—The Buenos Aires municipality has decided that municipal employees must not be furnished with free passes upon the lines of tramway, and are required to travel on the tramways on the payment of their fares, and in that case the necessary passes will be solicited by the municipality. The regulation is a good one in every sense, and it is to be hoped it will be given full effect. It would be a move in the right direction if a similar regulation were adopted for the government service, and made extensive to railways as well as tramways. —*Argentine Photo Railway News.*

—The Argentine torpedo cruiser *Roncales* was wrecked near Cape Polonio, Uruguay, on the 8th inst., news to that effect being received only on the 12th. The commander and officers took the boats and three were drowned in landing. Some 80 men were left to their own resources, and it is not known how many of them are saved. Relief has been sent to them from Montevideo. The *Roncales* was one of the three vessels which recently sailed to attend a Columbus anniversary in Spain. The *Atahualpa*, *Brown* and *25 de Mayo* are since heard from and fears are no longer entertained of their safety. Subsequent telegrams state that the steam launch *Imperial* sent to assist the abandoned sailors has returned without finding any trace of them.

—Intendant Bullini ordered the registry offices of the city to discontinue the publication of the lists of deaths by influenza and other contagious diseases on the same principle that certain simple people will not speak of ghosts in a hogman during the night, hoping by acting in this deferential way to keep the hoghollans at a distance. The *facilias* family took no notice whatever of the kindly phrase, but kept the even tenor of their way, gipping death by influenza and other contagious diseases all worldly care and anxiety. Then, as if in revenge himself on something or someone, Señor Bullini lumps the whole list of the month and gives a "susto maynsculo" by publishing the monthly statistics. During the month of June 604 persons died of influenza within the municipal boundary and 1192 of other diseases. The number of victims of "the grippie" is certainly large, but we are certain it would be exactly the same if the lists of deaths had been published daily. —*Southern Cross Buenos Aires, July 8.*

—The Committee of the British Hospital Bazaar, at Buenos Aires announces very satisfactory results of the Bazaar held on 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th June to raise funds for enlarging the "women's ward," and providing an "intermediate ward" for those who are unable to pay for private wards. After paying the expenses of the bazaar 11,595.50 m/n and \$329.50 gold and cost of sundry articles purchased by the committee, there will remain about \$85,000 m/n and \$3800 gold which may be said to amount to £2000. This sum has been placed in the London and River Plate Bank.

—The British Hospital Bazaar proved to be an immense success. We hear that the gross takings exceeded \$100,000 in legal, and that the net proceeds will not be less than \$80,000! The thanks of the British community are due to Mr. John de la Haza, the committee, the secretary and the ladies in general who worked so hard, and so successfully to achieve this satisfactory result. The figures we give above are more eloquent than any words we can supply. The Hospital is worthy of the generous manner in which the appeal has been met, and higher praise than this it would be difficult to find. —*Review of the River Plate.*

—Government is paying its accounts in minor notes of the National Bank at the rate of 80 per cent, the same notes being out of circulation and hoarded on the Bolsa at about 62. Moreover the Bank is in liquidation (unfortunately in government hands) and its notes are supposed to be withdrawn, any fresh issues being distinctly illegal. There is a good deal here that requires explanation. —*Montevideo Times.*

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

JULY 9.—*Senate.*—Not enough senators were present to form a quorum. *Chamber of Deputies.*—Deputy Casimiro Junior spoke against the bill for altering the present system of organizing the budget, and Deputy Oliveira spoke in its favor. Deputy Franca Carvalho moved that the report of the committee on legislation on the tobacco tax be placed on the docket before that of the budget committee on the same subject. The latter report favors retaining the tax, while the former considers it unconstitutional. Deputy Leopoldo de Bulhões proposed the motion. Deputy Severino Vieira and Arthur Rios spoke against the latter report. Deputy Frederico Borges insisted on the postponement of this discussion until after the Chamber shall have acted on the report of the committee on legislation. Deputy Leopoldo de Bulhões defended the report of the budget committee.

JULY 11.—*Senate.*—The Senate was still without a quorum. *Chamber of Deputies.*—Deputy João de Sáqueira moved for the appointment of a special committee of senators and deputies to report on the bill for issuing 100,000,000 for the purpose of aiding trade and industry. Deputy Sampaio Ferraz defended the bill. Deputy Marciano de Magalhães censured the Minas delegation for upholding the measure proposed by Deputy Aylva Junior for increasing the strength of the army. There was received a petition from the Club de Engenharia in favor of the issue of 100,000,000 for aiding trade and industry. Deputy Demétrio Ribeiro repeated his censures on the action of the government in Rio Grande do Sul. The committee on finance reported in favor of admitting free from duty the building materials and furniture of the American college at Taubaté.

JULY 12.—*Senate.*—Senator Ruyseu Martins said that the proper way of settling the question of the senatorial election in Alagoas is by means of a bill. Senator Americo Lalo moved to instruct the committee on the constitution to report again on the subject, fixing a date for holding the election. Senator Campos Sales opposed the motion and defended the report, which was adopted by the Senate. The Senate continued to vote on the amendments to the bill organizing the federal district, some of which were carried by a two-thirds vote. *Chamber of Deputies.*—Deputy Oliveira protested against the statement that 500,000 had been subscribed for the purpose of defeating the bill for issuing 100,000,000 for aiding trade and industry. Deputy Severino Vieira spoke against the bill, which was also opposed by Deputy Costa Junior. Deputy Lamourier Goulfede defended the Minas delegation from the attack made on it by Deputy Marciano de Magalhães. Deputy João de Sáqueira referred in the report that the minister of the navy had authorized the bombardment of Porto Alegre and moved to inquire what steps had been taken to punish the persons who had bombarded that city. Deputy Zana contradicted the report that preparations are making in Bahia for deposing Gov. Rodrigues Lima.

JULY 13.—*Senate.*—The Senate was again without a quorum. *Chamber of Deputies.*—Deputies Valladao and Demétrio Ribeiro spoke on affairs in Rio Grande do Sul. The former said that if the central government has ever interfered in the affairs of that state it was during the administration of Barros Cassal and Barreto Leite and at their request. Deputy Demétrio Ribeiro denied that these governors had ever asked for the intervention of the federal government. When they had asked was that this government should restrain the troops from interfering. In regard to the *Marajó* he said that that general had merely refused to leave when it was attacked. Deputies Severino Vieira and Garcia Pires spoke on affairs in Bahia, the latter asserting that his friends have an intention of deposing the governor. A message was received from Vice-President Floriano Peixoto asking for a special appropriation of 5,758,347\$534 for the Central railway.

JULY 15.—*Senate.*—The Senate continued to vote on the amendments to the bill for organizing the federal district. A question arose as to what constitutes a two-thirds vote. It was decided that in calculating this vote the presiding officer should not be counted. It was also decided, however, that he should be counted among the members necessary to constitute a quorum. *Chamber of Deputies.*—By a vote of 79 to 26 the Chamber adopted the report of the committee on the constitution approving of the declaration of martial law and of the acts performed by the government under cover thereof. The Chamber then voted in second discussion the substitute amnesty bill introduced by Deputy Severino Vieira. Deputy Costa Junior concluded his speech against the bill for aiding trade and industry and presented a substitute bill. This bill excludes from the favors granted companies who have expended part of their capital in the payment of incorporation expenses or in the purchase of privileges, those who have bought real estate at an advance of over 2 1/2% on the previous price and those that fail to prove that all their capital has been invested in the business for which they were organized. Deputy João Pinheiro opposed increasing the number of troops beyond the present actual strength of the army, which is a little over 15,000. He also opposed increasing the number of cañons at the military schools from 600 to 1,200. Deputy Leopoldo de Bulhões from the Minas committee introduced a bill authorizing the government to convert into currency 5% bonds, the converted 4% gold bonds, and to make a foreign or internal loan for consolidating the floating debt, for meeting the deficit in the budget and for paying in currency the bondholders who refused to accept convertibles. He said that the interest now paid on the 4% gold bonds is equivalent to over 10% in currency and that the government has to pay annually 45,552,143\$666 in gold.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—It snowed in Paraná on the 12th.

—The thermometer has been down nearly to the freezing point at Tanguá.

—The Bahia gas company has had its contract extended another six months.

—In Bahia from the 10th to the 15th inst. there were 9 cases of yellow fever, five of which were fatal.

—The Argentine naval vessels *Albatroz* and *Uruguay* arrived at Bahia on the 15th, on route for Callis.

—Intensely cold weather is reported from São Paulo, the temperature dropping to 2° below zero Centigrade.

—A S. Paulo telegram of the 18th says that a café there proposes to increase the price of coffee to 200 reis a cup.

—In the month of June 2,719 beef cattle were shipped from the station of Oliveira on the Oeste de Minas railway.

—At Campos when Dr. Carlos de Gusmão arrived one morning some days ago, he found a package containing 2 revolver balls in a paper with funeral emblems. It was a great waste of ammunition, surely?

—The Santos port improvements company has been authorized to construct warehouses on its new quays in that city. The first is promised in a month, while 150 more are to be ready before the expiration of three months.

—We see by our American exchanges that the Sears Commercial Company, Ltd., of New York and Para, which has gone into liquidation, has been succeeded by Sears & Co., in New York, and R. F. Sears & Co. in Para.

—We are glad to see that someone in São Paulo wants a canal between Santos and that city. It is a beautiful scheme. The canal might be built at an angle of 45° on the Mac Aldeia pattern, and then it would make a splendid toadskin slide.

—A Para telegram of the 15th states that at Boa Vista de Tocantins a man of the name of Perna, at the head of 1,600 tame Indians, has entrenched himself, awaiting the attack of Col. Lúcio, who is marching against him. The principal families of Boa Vista have fled panic-stricken from the place.

—It is said that the Mouche surveys are no longer reliable for the part of Victoria. Dr. Indio do Brazil has recently presented a copy of his surveys in 1888 to the governor of Espírito Santo, who proposes to publish them. Efforts are being made also to have the entrance to that port marked by buoys.

—The motion of Deputy Itabirano for the dissolution of the Minas legislature reached a solution on the 15th in the resignation of the ten men who advocated the measure. In initiation of the constituents, who are sending Teziana, Barbosa, Inocência and other senators back to the city which they had resigned in the national Senate, the constituents of these two state deputies will probably return them to their places with all the new and untarnished powers which they so ardently desire.

—Notwithstanding official denials, there seem to be reasons for believing that the national government is interfering in the government of the states. In Rio Grande it is evident in Bahia the deposition of the governor is talked of and with the assistance of the military; and now it is said that orlers have been sent to Pernambuco for the military to co-operate with the discontented republicans for the deposition of the governor of that state. It may be added that there will never be any efficient state government as long as even a possibility remains of national military interference.

—A Pará telegram of the 15th contains advice regarding the execution of the effect that they are suffering great privations because of their inability to get food. The Conde de Leopoldina had sent to Manaus from Santa Isabel for supplies on his own account, and General Almeida Barreto was reported gravely ill. At São João (Rio Branco) Col. Menna Barreto had quarrelled with his commander over the 14th of April incident and had withdrawn from association with them, and Col. Thaumaturgo, the wisest of all, had joined a friend in cattle raising. A little honest occupation is the best means that can be employed to pass the time and keep up one's health.

—According to Rio Grande journals the surrender of Gen. Tavares, at Bagé, was brought about by Col. Arthur Oscar, of the 3rd battalion of infantry, who was sent to protect the re-opening of railway communication which had been interrupted near Bagé. As the railway protected the border was based on Page Street traffic entered that city unopposed. Tavares' forces were outside the city. An accord was eventually arranged between Tavares and Oscar for the dispersion of the former's forces and surrender of their arms, which was consummated without consulting the officers in command. The latter were highly indignant at so cowardly a surrender, and left the place at once, some returning home, others retiring into Uruguay. The surrender was finally completed on the 6th inst.

—The storm of Tuesday and Wednesday last resulted in breaking a part of the outlet works of a little stream at the lower end of Icaray beach. Nicherow, and in filling the outlet with sand. The result is there took no steps to clear away the obstruction, and on Sunday they found themselves the victims of an increasing inundation. Houses and gardens were flooded and even the streets in places were overtopped. On Sunday morning two or three men were put at work to dig a channel through the sand-bank and in the afternoon the water began to subside. We did not learn who it was that conceived this idea of digging a shallow ditch 50 feet long to save the town from being completely flooded, but we do know that the whole population would have lived all summer in the water before they could have been induced to think of a ditch.

—The price of beef has risen to 18 per kilo at Piracicaba, S. Paulo.

—The extraordinary session of the Espírito Santo legislature was closed on the 14th inst.

—The new governor of Minas Geraes, Dr. Afonso Penna, was inaugurated on the 14th.

—A deputy, Col. Bezerril Fontenelle, has been elected governor of Ceará. We are curious to see whether he will "accumulate."

—The steamer *Parati*, which was wrecked on the coast of Santa Catharina, is said to have cost 900,000 \$, and was not insured.

—A Pará telegram of the 15th says that the new constitution of the state of Amazonas, which is expected, be promulgated on the 19th inst.

—A Recende telegram of the 14th says that snow had appeared on the summit of Itatiaia (the highest mountain in Brazil) and that the cold is intense.

—Dr. O. A. Derly has been up in the mining region of Minas during the past week in search of mineralogical exhibits for the Caxango exposition.

—A bill has been introduced into the São Paulo legislature for the suppression of lotteries and the prohibition of all traffic in lottery tickets. It will be a good piece of legislation, if adopted.

—A great scarcity of fuel is reported from Manaus, Amazonas. It is certainly very singular the Amazon region cannot produce fuel enough to keep its very limited population from starving.

—The state of Paraná has granted a privilege to Boaventura Lapp for the cultivation of tea, granting exemption from import duties on all material required for the enterprise, and from export duties on the product.

—In Juiz de Fora the butchers are asking 18 per kilo for beef without bone and 7 reis for beef with bone. What they ask for bone without beef does not appear, but we presume it is sufficient to protect the butcher's conscience from any subsequent regret.

—Minas is a state to be proud of! On the 12th, the day fixed for the discussion of the motion to dissolve the state legislature, only six deputies attended. It had been said that the author of the motion had no supporters. In that case why was it necessary to run?

—According to mail advices from Santos the customs-inspector there has dismissed the quartermaster, a sergeant and soldier of the customs police for complicity in the attack on Capt. Mario Antra. Some of the bloodthirsty journalists of the place condemn this action.

—Gen. Lima e Silva telegraphs from Bahia that there is not a word of truth in the report that the governor of that state is going to be deposed. And to prove that what he says is true the general adds: "He and I are on terms of esteem and confidence." That settles it, General!

—In the revolutionary city of Vigosa, Minas Geraes, a "heavenly chimie" was baptised into the Catholic church on the 20th inst. A grand demonstration was made in honor of the neophyte, who gave his friends a sumptuous repast. In doing so he takes the name of João Pacheco Gomes Neff.

—Although the São Paulo state treasury is overflowing with money, the contractors for an iron bridge *over Rio de Campinas*, Messrs. Malfatti & Massigli, have recently applied to the minister of agriculture for a reduction of their contract because the state has failed to pay them. The minister very properly replies that he has nothing to do with state contracts.

—We were deeply touched by a telegram from Oaro Preto on the 12th from Dr. Jorge Pinto, editor of the official organ *Minas Geraes*, announcing his resignation because of the incompatibility between him and the state legislature. Dr. Jorge wants the legislature to resign, while the latter proposes to do no such thing. Jorge is therefore compelled to withdraw unanimously from his lucrative position, and to advise the national capital of the momentous act.

—In the bill reorganizing public instruction in the state of Minas Geraes, the salaries of teachers in the public primary schools have been nearly doubled. It also provides for normal schools at Araxatuba and Juiz de Fora. Why would it not be a good plan to make one of these say at Juiz de Fora—a model normal school of the American system? American normal teachers could be procured, and in a short time the Juiz de Fora school would be attracting pupils from every part of Brazil.

RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

On the *Jornal do Commercio* of the 15th says: "On the 15th there arrived yesterday from Rio Grande do Sul Drs. Maciel and Silveira Martins. Persecuted by the faction which, with the support of the federal troops, now controls that unfortunate state, they are both refugees; in fact it was only when they were halfway on their journey that they took passage on the packet. It appears that the state of affairs in Rio Grande is far from encouraging. Crime is increasing and there is no one to restrain it. Under the pretext of political necessity the greatest outrages are committed even in Porto Alegre. The present situation is unconstitutional both from a local point of view and from that of our fundamental compact. In the midst of this state of lawless and heavy debt, and its government, no matter in whose hands it may be, will have to contend with the greatest difficulties. It also appears that among the federal troops the discipline is not perfect. It is evident that the situation in Rio Grande do Sul demands the utmost circumspection on the part of the federal authorities and the responsibility that weighs upon the Vice-President is enormous, not only on account of the blunders which, in our opinion, he has already committed, in regard to this question, but also in relation to the steps which he is now required to take."

COFFEE NOTES

—The Java coffee crop this year is officially estimated at 422,980 piculs, or 486,104 bags of 60 kilos.

—The coffee crop of the municipal district of Mogy-mirim, S. Paulo, is estimated this year at 99 arrobas per 1,000 trees.

—The coffee exports from Mexico during the last year ending 31st December, 1891, were valued at \$1,219,956.92, against \$1,119,616.19 in the corresponding period of 1890.

—The Nicaraguan consular in Philadelphia has issued a protest, signed by many Nicaraguans residing there, against the practice on the part of many dealers of selling inferior coffees as coming from Nicaragua. He claims that the sale of Nicaraguan coffee has been much injured by this means.

COFFEE IN INDIA.

The *Ceylon Observer* of May 25th contains the following remarks on the cultivation of coffee in India, which appears to be slowly increasing: "While tea is principally grown in the north of India in latitudes extending beyond 25°, coffee has been cultivated commercially exclusively in the south of India, where the conditions are, like those of Ceylon, tropical. The disaster which almost annihilated coffee in Ceylon affected the coffee districts of southern India very seriously, but not quite with the same deadly violence, and coffee is still the staple product grown by European planters in the Wynad, Travancore and especially Mysore. The figures for the past three years show a very remarkable recovery last year, thus:—

1890.....	236,795 cwt.
1891.....	233,457 "
1892.....	311,864 "

This is far and away better than Ceylon, which, in 1890, exported over a million cwt., while we believe India scarcely ever exceeded one-half of that quantity. The value of the coffee exported last year from India is given at Rs.9,985,588, say in round numbers twenty millions of rupees, or exactly one-third the value of the tea crop, or, sterling nearly £1,333,000. Coffee, therefore, is still an article of very considerable importance to the commerce of India. For total crop, considering how largely coffee is consumed in the country, we may, we believe, add at least another 100,000 cwt. to the 312,000 shown as exported. Some of the coffee is exported from Bombay (to Australia and Egypt, to be drunk as best Mocha?) but the whole is grown in the Madras presidency, where all the signs point to a revival of the coffee enterprise, rather than a large extension of tea cultivation. With reference to ulterior action in Ceylon it will be well for our planters to watch carefully the history of coffee for the next few years in the neighbouring Indian presidency.

From the *Times of Ceylon*, May 30th.

LIBERIAN COFFEE IN PERAK.

A gentleman in Perak, formerly a Ceylon planter of considerable experience, writes about Liberian coffee as follows: "I have been visiting my friends and having a look round generally. I must say I was most agreeably surprised to find that such a progress had been made in the opening up of land in that district. The coffee was looking so well, too, with every prospect of the several proprietors making a lot of money out of their new venture. I saw three-year old coffee bearing to such an extent that they were obliged to strip a lot of it off to save the trees, although the trees are healthy enough. The same thing obtains on 'Kamuning' estate (Perak) where the crop is something immense for the trees at their age. I have never seen anything like it in Ceylon. In Selangor, as on 'Kamuning,' the branches of the trees are actually bent down and are nearly breaking with weight of crop. There is no doubt that this is the true home for Liberian coffee. When down in Selangor I met V. Carey, a Ceylon planter, who had come to take in 400 acres of land for Tallo, David Reid, and himself. He had selected his land and was ready to receive me to go on to give me a present in connection with it, and he offered to me. They intend opening up 200 acres every year for four years, making a total of 800 in the fourth year. That looks like business, does it not? Carey has every faith in Liberian coffee, as I have myself. Carefully worked-out figures show that Liberian coffee will clear itself in 5½ years. These figures are in no way exaggerated, but are the outcome of years of experience and are based on actual results. Why do Ceylon men with capital hesitate to come over here? Any small government restrictions can easily be overcome by application and if properly presented."

RAILROAD NOTES

—The minister of agriculture has instructed the chief fiscal of railways to arrange that preference shall be given at Santos for the discharge of coal for railways, arranging with the S. Paulo railway for that purpose.

—The minister of agriculture has asked his colleague of justice for a suspension of the embargo of the Ararauma railway. He appears to hold that a railway can not be seized by its creditors. Why not get a court to decide that matter?

—The Paulista company is now threatening to suspend traffic because of a scarcity of coal. The penalties which will be caused by such a suspension will be incalculable. The English company must certainly push forward its work, no matter what the expense may be.

—The minister of agriculture has instructed the governor of the central railway to dismiss every employee responsible for accidents on that line, and to provide that they shall never be re-employed. In many cases, this is totally inadequate. Not a few of the frequent accidents on that line are the result of gross negligence and criminal disregard of instructions.

—A S. Paulo telegram of the 18th reports conflicts on the Mogyana line at various places between laborers. Several killed and wounded are reported.

—A Bahia telegram of yesterday announces a strike on the Bahia Central railway, causing a suspension of traffic. The strikers demanded increased wages.

—In a letter to the *Jornal do Commercio* this morning, the minister of agriculture partially admits the force of our colleague's arguments on the execution of fines against mortgaged railways. He claims, however, that the clause forbidding the "alienation" of guaranteed railways without official consent sustains his argument.

—An effort is at last to be made to improve the condition of the Central railway. The government has asked for a special credit of 5,753,347\$534 with which to purchase rolling stock and other material for the line. If the authorities do not take measures against the criminal negligence and wastefulness of the employees of that road, this credit will very soon be exhausted.

—The *Jornal do Commercio* of the 18th takes issue with the advice of the minister of agriculture to the effect that the property of a railway is inalienable and cannot be seized by creditors by virtue of a mortgage. The *Jornal* believes that if the minister's opinion is carried into effect then there is not a railway loan that can be protected by law, debenture quotations will depreciate, and it will in future be impossible for a Brazilian railway to borrow money. Even a mere opinion in that direction is cause for alarm.

SPANISH RAILWAY TRAVELLING.

The Rev. H. R. Haweis in an account of his travels in Spain gives an interesting account of railway travelling in the Peninsula. "I had been told about Spanish trains not being punctual, of Spanish coaches varying, and so forth; but between Barcelona and Valencia I found I still had some things to learn. Of course the train could not go until the station-master had done his coffee, nor could the engine be got to move until the driver had finished flitting; the washbuckle guard, armed with sword and carbine, has also affairs of his own which may unexpectedly be permitted to control the Spanish pilgrim's progress. But what is this? In open country, miles from any station, the train suddenly pulls up. I had noticed a man galloping across country. Well, he had been thrown in an adjacent field. The villagers were assisting him to rise; one held his horse. The group caught the engine-driver's eye; he simply stopped the train out of sheer curiosity. Further, will it be believed that most of the people got out and ran to join the gaping group? And we actually stopped on the side track for about twenty minutes; to the great annoyance of all but half-a-dozen English, including myself, and two American ladies. Night came, but no rest for me; the first-class carriages being by that time not only crowded, but filthy. The official ticket-collector was amongst them, and the return train arrived the next day! The train soon stopped; he wished us all politely good-bye, raising his official cap, got out with his gun and pouch, and we saw him no more. I ventured openly to disapprove of his conduct. A Spanish gentleman shrugged his shoulders sympathetically, but seemed astonished when we talked of returning the next day, as if Spain could not go on at all if this sort of foreign intervention were countenanced. I at once appreciated the situation. I felt that to hither an employed in his amusements in Spain was like 'robbing the poor man of his beer' in England. The moralist within me became dumb; I sank to the Spanish level and held my peace."

SOUTH American politics, since they have begun to take on the shape of the modern European anarchistic propaganda, have not gained in dignity. The use of dynamite bombs, as in Caracas and Buenos Aires, attempts to wreck railway trains conveying high officers of state as in Chile—all these things will contribute, and that powerfully, to frightening away the already apprehensive European investor. The stolid English small capitalist, who hates dynamite as the Devil is supposed to abhor holy water, will not lend a penny to far-away London banking-house who takes advantage of the turning away from borrowers who cannot keep the peace five years at a time, and who carry on civil war with dynamite? Argentine credit has been overthrown by the wild speculations of its former government in alliance with a kite-flying London banking-house who takes advantage of the conservative and honorable dealing habits of what was as mad as a March hare! And it is a thousand pities that so marvellously endowed a country as Argentina, a land of vast natural wealth, should have been so misgoverned. Credit is of slow growth, and it will be many years before money flows again in a golden stream towards South America. Permanence in government is what is needed in Latin American nations. It is no gain to overthrow an empire, as in Brazil, unless the government that comes after is a better one, for forms of government matter little, so that there is security for life and property, a lesson that should everywhere be taken to heart by people who mix their patriotism with gunpowder. *African Financier*, 30th April.

FINANCIAL NOTES

July 18.—The banks all posted 105½ on London at opening, but before mid-day the rate was reduced to 105½, at which, however, little, if anything was done. The market continues without life; the stagnation in office has cut off the supply of commercial exchange, and the business shown seems to be the repaying of bills already taken. Official rates at the banks were 105½—106½ on London, 91½—92½ on Paris, and \$123½—\$149 on Hamburg, at 90:88, 88:30—88½, 72 on New York at sight. The business reported was in bank stealing out bankers at 105½—106½, and at the same rates on local offices, with repassed paper quoted at 105½ and commercial sterling at 71½—72½. Sovereigns sold at 23½60—190, and closed with buyers at 23½50, — sellers at 23½40.

Subscribers are requested to note that on Monday next, July 25th, and until further notice, the Library and Reading Room will be closed during removal to new premises at No. 114, Rua da Assembleia.

By order of the Committee.

